

Legal Authorities Supporting Collaboration

EPA Office of the General Council/Alternative Dispute Resolution Law Office

Description of activity: In an August 11, 2006 memorandum, the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality requested that EPA and other federal agencies provide a compendium of legal authorities supporting cooperative conservation. The request was in furtherance of the Executive Order on Cooperative Conservation issued by the President in 2005.

EPA's document, "EPA's Legal Framework Supports Collaboration," summarizes the wide scope of support for the use of collaboration in Agency programs and activities. It concludes that EPA's enabling statutes and cross-agency laws provide a strong framework for using collaborative approaches with EPA's partners, stakeholders and the public to protect human health and the environment. The summaries in the document highlight various aspects of these laws related to collaboration, including provisions for public involvement, cooperation between government entities, funding to support collaborative activities, and geography specific collaborations. In addition, the compendium summarizes a number of authorities that EPA utilizes to enhance collaboration, including those for public access to information, contracting to support collaborative activities and the use of voluntary programs.

The compendium provides EPA staff, partners, stakeholders and the public with an important understanding of the breadth of EPA authorities supporting the use of collaboration

Activity URL: <http://www.epa/publicinvolvement/LegalAuthorities.pdf>